

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 15 through page 9, line 9 with the following paragraph:

The cube-corner surfaces 18 are covered with an optical coating 20, such as a metal layer that includes aluminum, silver or other suitable specular metal, as shown in Figure 6. In one embodiment, a low index transparent perfluorinated polymer, which has an index of refraction of about 1.1, can be used as an optical coating to coat the surfaces 18. The open-faced prisms can be filled with a fill coat 32, such as a colored or substantially clear/transparent long weathering polymer, as shown in Figure 7. The fill coat 32 can be permanently attached to the specular metal. The polymer can be flexible and/or elastomeric. It is not required that the fill coat 32 provide any strength to the sheeting 14 as such is provided by the rigid material forming the prism islands 22 to maintain a dihedral angle of ninety degrees of the open-faced prisms. This allows for the use of materials that are not structurally strong enough for conventional cube-corner prisms, but have other physical properties that are advantageous for retroreflective sheeting, such as increased ultraviolet light stability, etc. Examples of fill materials include simple acrylic or acrylic-fluorocarbon polymers. It is preferable that fill coat 32 be substantially resistant to UV degradation. In one embodiment, the fill coat 32 comprises a material having an application viscosity of less than or equal to about 1,000 centipoises. Such materials can also have a low glass transition temperature, such as fluorocarbon, fluorinated acrylic, or fluorinated urethane. An example of a suitable low glass transition temperature range is between about -20 and 80 degrees Celsius (-4 and 176 degrees Fahrenheit). Preferably, the glass transition temperature is less than about 15 degrees Celsius (59 degrees Fahrenheit). It is noted that the fill coat 32 increases the entrance angle at which light rays R enter and therefore can be retroreflected by cube-corner surfaces 18. Fill coat 32 can be designed to be wavy (non-planar) to improve angular retroreflective performance.

The amendment to the specification is indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (page i).